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# THE KYIV INDEPENDENT

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## Scholz warns Moscow of 'wide-reaching' consequences, stays silent on Nord Stream 2

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by [Asami Terajima](#)

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President Volodymyr Zelensky greets German Chancellor Olaf Scholz at Mariinskyi Palace in Kyiv on Feb. 14. (president.gov.ua)

Volodymyr Zelensky warned German Chancellor Olaf Scholz that Russia was wielding its Nord Stream 2 gas geopolitical weapon” to threaten energy security in Europe.

German relations with the controversial gas pipeline bypassing Ukraine have been a growing irritant in Washington and Kyiv.

Ukraine shared disagreements over security threats from Nord Stream 2,” said Zelensky at a joint press conference following his talks with Scholz in Kyiv on Feb. 14.

Scholz was vague on possible sanctions against Nord Stream 2, instead focusing on the Minsk agreements, Zelensky agreed to present a plan to introduce “special status” for Donbas, occupied by Russia since 2014.

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an chancellor's first meeting with Zelensky came amid mounting tensions over a possible further on of Ukraine. Russia has massed **around 140,000 troops** around Ukraine and in the Russian-occupied aine in recent weeks.

cial have voiced their concern over Berlin's light response to Kremlin's ongoing military build-up.

been facing criticism in Ukraine and abroad for refusing to supply defensive weapons to Kyiv and taking t line on sanctions against Russia. The country has also been under fire for supporting the Nord Stream ich many see as yet another political tool in the hands of Russian President Vladimir Putin.



Volodymyr Zelenskyy holds a joint press conference with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz at Mariinskyi Palace in Kyiv on Feb. 14.  
([president.gov.ua](http://president.gov.ua))

Scholz said that no one should doubt Berlin's determination and commitment to punish Russia should it

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cored that Germany has been Ukraine's largest financial donor over the past eight years and will provide assistance. In addition to the \$2 billion already invested in Ukraine, the chancellor announced a 70 million for Ukraine to become more resilient to what he called "foreign influences."

nty and territorial integrity of Ukraine is not negotiable," Scholz said. "We expect Russia to take clear e the situation."

cholz refrained from disclosing more details about the sanctions that Germany would impose or Stream 2 would be blocked should Russia ramp up military aggression towards Ukraine. He said Berlin ating a package of sanctions with its Western allies.

s Kremlin-owned Gazprom's largest foreign customer, importing more than 55 percent of its gas from

avel to Moscow next where he will meet Putin on Feb. 15. If Washington's fears of an imminent attack led, Scholz could be the last Western leader to get the chance, in person, to persuade Putin against ll-scale attack on Ukraine.

ted that Germany and its allies were ready for serious dialogue with Russia, though he added that it very important to have direct negotiations between Kyiv and Moscow, something that Zelensky has undertake.

er 20 embassies have urged their citizens to immediately leave the country following the White **arnings** that Russia could mount a major military assault on Ukraine "at any moment."

Kyiv remains open for top-level diplomatic visits, with Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio set to visit i, while U.K. Foreign Secretary Liz Truss is expected in Ukraine on Feb. 17.

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Asami Terajima is a staff writer at the Kyiv Independent. She worked as a business reporter for the Kyiv Post until November 2021.

y, Nord Stream 2, Olaf Scholz, Russia's war, Volodymyr Zelensky

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